

A PERFECT
ACCOUNT
O F
The Tryals and Condemnation
O F
The Grand and Notorious
Highway-men,

Thomas Chavenor that sometime since made an Escape out of Newgate, and was lately retaken, and now Convicted for Robbing certain Excise-men of Eleven hundred pounds;

Michael Purcell, found guilty upon Three several Indictments for Robbing of Clothiers upon the Highway of great sums of Money,

At the ASSIZES held for the County of Essex
the 4th, 5th, and 6th of this instant March 1678.

With a Narrative of other remarkable Proceedings at the said Assizes.

And the number of those Condemn'd, Burnt in the Hand,
and Transported.

This may be Printed. *Ro. L'Estrange.*

London : Printed for D. M. 1678.

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ANSWER TO THE EDITOR

gängig geworden.

• Vídejte můj vlastní světový svět a díky
jemuž je můj svět tak zajímavý.

1. *Die Wissenschaften der Sprache und des Geistes* für alle Altersstufen. 2. *Die Wissenschaften der Sprache und des Geistes* für die höheren Schulen.

WILHELM STUSSMANN



News from Chelmsford.

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The extraordinary Mischiefs committed of late upon most Roads of this Kingdom by Highway-men, and the Apprehension of several of them having occasion'd a general Discourse, but especially the notorious *Thomas Chavenor*, famous for

his subtlety in making his escape out of *Nemgate*, and no less for his folly in lurking so long afterwards about this Town, till at last he was retaken. For publick satisfaction 'tis thought fit to gratifie the Reader with an Account both of his Tryal and anothers likewise condemned with him at *Chelmsford* Assizes.

In order whereunto we must acquaint you, That about the latter end of *April* last a company of Excise-men, five in all in number, but one of them unhappily behinde the rest, having a very considerable sum of money (counted by common report to be Eleven hundred pounds) conveying the same up to *London*, were off of *Hadston*, just upon the parting of the two Counties *Essex* and *Hartfordshire*, set upon, and after a very resolute defence overmastered, by eight Highway-men, who seiz'd their money; and for the more clever conveyance, divided the Bags amongst them, and so having bound the Excise-men, and turn'd their Horses loose with Bridles and Girths cut, rid away

away with all the speed imaginable. How-
ever, Company soon after passing that road,
and in particular, he of their own party that
was behinde, coming up, released the per-
sons rabb'd, got their horses, rais'd *Hue and
Cry*, and in a moment all the Country was
upon the pursuit, and so hot, that the Thieves
were forc'd to separate themselves, and four
for that time got clear away ; the other
four followed more closely were forced to
fling away their ill-gotten money, and two
taking shelter in a Wood were there appre-
hended, and the other two taken in a Vil-
lage : who were all four tried at *Harrowe*
Assizes the 20th of July last and condemned,
but onely three of them executed and the o-

Amongst the other four that got off was
Thomas Chavenor, who with six more was
taken on *Munday* the 13th of *November* last
in the *Strand* ; and after his escape and retra-
king, was now carried down to *Chelmsford*
Assizes : where upon sufficient evidence he
was proved to be one of the persons acting
in that Robbery ; nor indeed could he much
deny.

deny it : whereupon he was found guilty by the Jury.

'Tis confess'd there was no actual Murder committed by him or his Crew in this Robbery, but it was the sad occasion of one : For the before-mentioned Excise-man that was behinde lighting a Pipe of Tobacco, being suspected wrongfully as an Accessary, or for giving notice of the Booty, took the undeserved Scandal so heinously, that he resolved not to survive the disgrace, but with a Pistol shot himself and died at *Hodsdon*. But in another Robbery about the same time, at a place call'd *Watford-gap*, there was an honest Grafter lost his life, and 'tis credibly said, by the hand of this *Thomas Chavenor* : who as he was certainly a man stout and courageous, so he was observed to be more cruel than most of his wicked Companions ; who are often very tender of shedding mens Blood, though they make no conscience of taking their Money.

When he grew up, he was put forth
to

to be a Clerk to an Attorney ; but he soon left first his Business and then his Master, and came over for *England*, and was some little time at one of the Universities in quality of a Servant. After that he came to *London*, fell into ill Company, lived extravagantly, and to maintain his Luxury made use of the Road ; having for some time been esteemed a principal man amongst the Banditti of the Town.

Another persoē that was taken with him at first in the *Strand*, was likewise now carried to *Chelmeford* and tried there. His name was *Michael Purcell* ; who had been with the same Gang in several Robberies : There were now no less than three several Indictments now prosecuted against him there, and he was found guilty upon them all for robbing of several Clothiers upon the *Highway*.

As their Carriage has all along been very impudent and careless, so they seem'd very little to regard their approaching Death ; but

but received their Condemnation as uncom-
cernedly as if it had been a story nothing re-
lating to them: So far can sin habir stille
Conscience, and the custom of sinning take
away the fence of sin.

Besides these, there were three others, less no-
torious, who there received Sentence; one for
stealing a Mare, which was taken with him, and
the Felony plainly proved; the other two for
several Burglaries, (or breaking into peoples
Dwelling-houses in the night to rob and pillage
them:) A Crime which our Law has most pru-
dently made Capital, since otherwise no man,
after his honest Labour, could lay him down in
rest in safety: Whereas now every persons house
is his Castle wherein he may remain sleeping or
waking in security, or punish with Death those
that shall feloniously attempt to molest him.

So that upon the whole matter, there were at
this Assizes at Chelmsford, Five Condemned to
die, Four Burnt in the hand, and Five ordered
for Transportation.

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